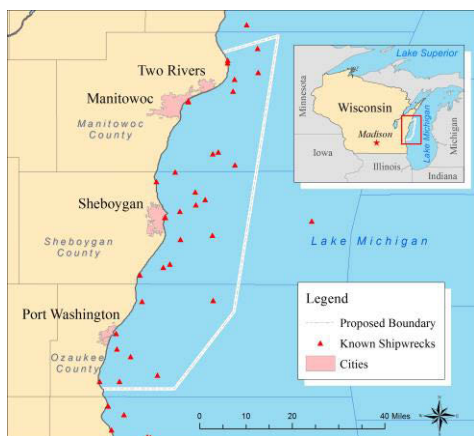


Proposed Wisconsin – Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary



Map of proposed boundaries

Sanctuary Designation Process

The process for designating a new national marine sanctuary has four steps:

Scoping: NOAA announces its intent to designate a new national marine sanctuary and asks the public for input on potential boundaries, resources that could be protected, issues NOAA should consider and any information that should be included in the resource analysis.

Sanctuary Proposal: NOAA prepares draft designation documents including a draft management plan, draft environmental impact statement that analyzes a range of alternatives, proposed regulations and proposed boundaries. NOAA may also form an advisory council to help inform the proposal and focus stakeholder participation.

Public Review: The public, agency partners, tribes and other stakeholders provide input on the draft documents. NOAA considers all input and determines appropriate changes.

Sanctuary Designation: NOAA makes a final decision and prepares final documents. Before the designation becomes effective, the Governor reviews the documents. Congress also has the opportunity to review the documents.

Wisconsin – Lake Michigan

For the first time since 2000, NOAA has announced its intent to designate new sanctuaries under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. NOAA is asking for the public's input on protecting Wisconsin – Lake Michigan's maritime heritage resources.

Wisconsin – Lake Michigan is an 875 square mile area of Lake Michigan with waters extending from Port Washington to Two Rivers. The state of Wisconsin nominated this area as a national marine sanctuary through the Sanctuary Nomination Process with broad community support.

The area encompasses historic shipwrecks of national significance that merit the additional management authority of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The nominated area contains an extraordinary collection of 39 known shipwrecks, 15 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Fifteen of the known shipwrecks are essentially intact and three vessels possess standing

masts – a rarity in the Great Lakes.

The area also includes Wisconsin's two oldest known shipwrecks. Archival and archaeological research indicates that the proposed sanctuary also includes 123 reported vessel losses.

About the nomination

In December 2014, the state of Wisconsin submitted a nomination to be added to NOAA's inventory of places to consider as national marine sanctuaries. The nomination is focused on protecting and interpreting the nationally significant collection of shipwrecks, fostering partnerships with education and research partners, and increasing opportunities for tourism and economic development.

It was endorsed by a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals at local, state, regional and national levels. This included elected officials, historical societies, businesses, museums, and environmental, recreational, conservation, fishing, tourism and educational groups.

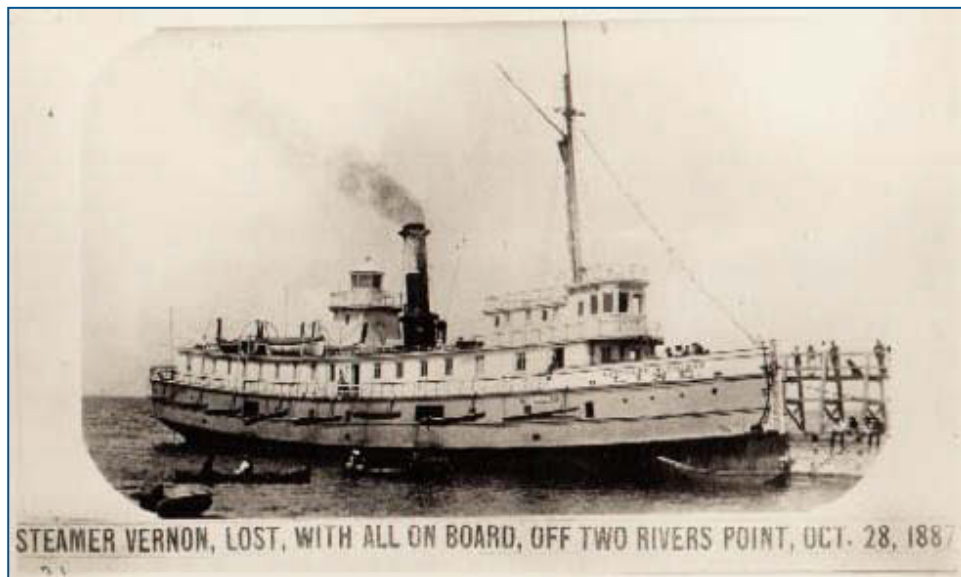


Photo: Wisconsin Historical Society

The shipwreck of the *Vernon* is the most intact package steamer in Wisconsin.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of 14 underwater parks encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Through the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, NOAA can identify, designate and protect areas of the marine and Great Lakes environment that have special national significance.

Through the community-based Sanctuary Nomination Process, Americans can nominate nationally significant marine and Great Lakes areas as potential new national marine sanctuaries. Nominations that successfully complete the process are added to an inventory of areas NOAA may consider for designation.

For more information contact

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Photo: Tamara Thomsen, Wisconsin Historical Society

The *Northerner* now lies 130 feet below the surface.



Photo: Tamara Thomsen, Wisconsin Historical Society

A diver swims over the two masted schooner, *Walter B. Allen*.



Photo: Tamara Thomsen, Wisconsin Historical Society

The schooner, *Home*, is one of the oldest shipwrecks discovered in Wisconsin.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wisconsin/>